



# Trail News

March 17, 2016

From the

## Meeteetse Conservation District

P.O. Box 237 • 1906 State Street • Meeteetse, WY 82433  
307-868-2484 • Fax 307-868-2489 • [mcd@tctwest.net](mailto:mcd@tctwest.net) • [www.meeteetsecd-wy.gov](http://www.meeteetsecd-wy.gov)

### Board of Supervisors:

Craig Geving, *Chairman*  
Tracy Renner, *Vice Chairman*  
Steve Jones, *Treasurer*  
Tim Morrison, *Secretary*

### Staff:

Steffen Cornell, *Resource Specialist*  
Nolan Hicks, *Resource Specialist*  
Bernie Spanogle, *Firewise Coordinator*  
Ginny Davis, *Clerk*

### NRCS:

Rory Karhu, *District Conservationist*

### ## TWO BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED ASAP ##

"The Meeteetse Conservation District board of supervisors is requesting an elector of the unincorporated area of the Meeteetse Conservation District to volunteer to fill unexpired vacancies (one At-Large & one Rural) on the Board of Supervisors. For further information, please contact the Meeteetse Conservation District office at 868-2484 or by email at [mcd@tctwest.net](mailto:mcd@tctwest.net)."

## USFWS releases proposal to delist grizzly

(Lakewood, Colo.) - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed to remove the grizzly bear in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem from the Federal Lists of Endangered and



Threatened Wildlife. According to a release issued by the, the restoration of the grizzly bear in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho during the last three decades stands as one of America's great conservation successes—a testament to the value of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the strong partnerships it drives. The Yellowstone grizzly bear population has rebounded from as few as 136 bears in 1975 to an estimated 700 or more today. "The recovery of the Yellowstone grizzly bear represents a historic success for partnership-driven wildlife conservation under the Endangered Species Act," said Service Director Dan Ashe. "Our proposal today underscores and celebrates more than 30 years of collaboration with our trusted federal, state and tribal partners to address the unique habitat challenges of grizzlies. The final post-delisting management plans by these partners will ensure healthy grizzly populations persist across the Yellowstone ecosystem long into the future."

"To ensure robust monitoring of Yellowstone grizzly bears, balanced management and effective conservation going forward, the Service is also releasing two other documents for public comment, a draft supplement to the 1993 Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan for the Yellowstone grizzly bear population, and a draft conservation strategy. These detail how both grizzly bears and their habitat will be managed in a post-delisting environment," stated the USFWS release.

Wyoming Governor Mead is pleased with the delisting. "We have been working for several years with the Secretary of Interior and the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service one on one, along with our staffs to get to this decision. The proposed rule is to delist grizzly bears. Grizzly bears are recovered and have been for more than a decade. It is a great success story," said Governor Mead. "I look forward to continued work with the Fish and Wildlife Service, Montana and Idaho as we move to a final rule later this year."

U.S. Senators Mike Enzi and John Barrasso and U.S. Representative Cynthia Lummis agree. "I'm glad action is once again being taken to return grizzly bear management back to the states," Enzi said. "Experts and wildlife officials agree grizzly bears in the Yellowstone region have been recovered for many years, but previous efforts to delist the bear were held hostage by litigation. This is no way to manage wildlife. As grizzly bear populations increase beyond capacity in Wyoming, so does the danger posed to livestock, property and humans. That is why it is so important that we turn over management of the species to state authorities."

"After repeatedly moving the goal posts for years, the Obama administration is finally moving in the right direction on grizzly bears," said Barrasso. "Wyoming and other states have worked hard to make sure the grizzly bear is fully recovered. The West – not Washington – is the most effective place to manage grizzly bears."

"Science has shown that the grizzly bear has been recovered for years and it has become ever more evident as the bears have spread far beyond the intended ranges," said Lummis. "Grizzly bear management belongs in

the hands of the State of Wyoming, where we have the knowledge and expertise necessary to maintain a balanced and healthy grizzly bear population. While it is a good first step for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to propose delisting the grizzly, the service must work promptly to collect and incorporate more input from Wyoming and its citizens on the new proposal and complete this rule in a timely manner. Wyoming has put in years of hard work and waited long enough for responsible state stewardship of the grizzly bear to be restored.”

The Service will be seeking review and comment by the public, other federal and state agencies, and independent scientists. Comments are requested 60-days after publication, and will be accepted electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search box, enter Docket Number FWS–R6–ES–2016–0042, and then click on the “Comment Now!” button. Comments will also be accepted via U.S. mail or hand-delivery: Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS–R6–ES–2016–0042, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, MS: BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803. *Feature Photo: Grizzly bear. h/t Teresa Muhic / Pitchengine Communities*

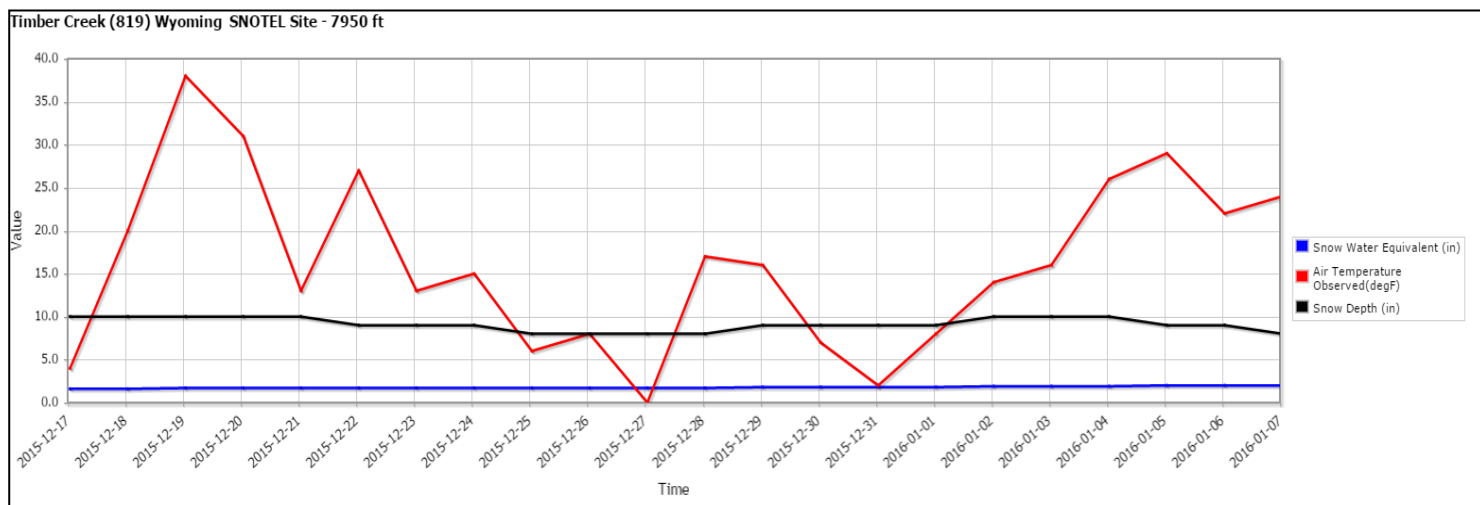
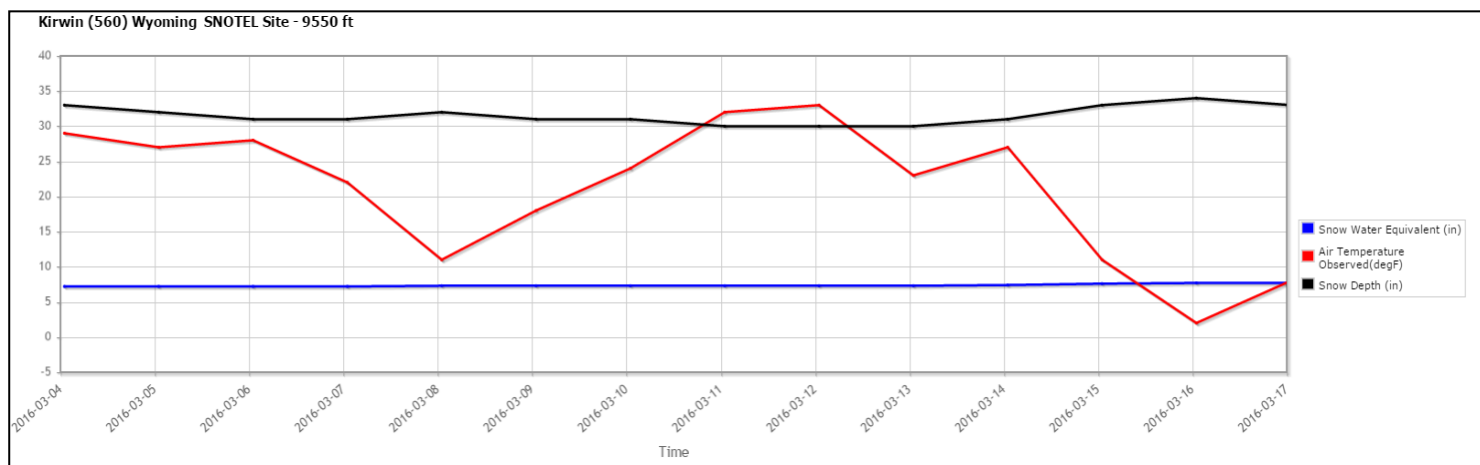
## Wyoming – NRCS

### Report #19

### Monday Morning Snow Report

Mar. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Good morning, everyone. This is the 19<sup>th</sup> Monday Snow Report for the 2015-2016 snow season. Last year on this date the state median was 91% with a low of 66% and a high of 114%. This year the state median is 81% with a low of 45% and a high of 101% of median. See the table & map below for more information. For those of you with INTERNET capability, a report and map showing SWE percentages for the state can be found at [www.wrds.uwyo.edu/wrds/nrcs/nrcs.html](http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/wrds/nrcs/nrcs.html). For the median, go to [www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/normals/median\\_average.htm](http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/normals/median_average.htm).



### -----Reminders and Updates-----

March 17<sup>th</sup> ~ 5:00p.m. Webinar: Natural Resource and Biodiversity Conservation in Organic Production at [www.conservationWebinars.net](http://www.conservationWebinars.net).

April 11<sup>th</sup> ~ 3:00p.m. – MCD Regular Board Meeting, 1906 State Street, Meeteetse. The public is welcome.

Happy Trails to You! Bernie, Ginny, Nolan & Steffen